annually. Here and there on the trees a seed had evidently started a young plant, and it was remarkable to note that these cases were always on the under side of the branches, the young plant growing straight down. As these branches were very smooth, it becomes a problem how the seed attach themselves to this under surface so as to remain and germinate. Some of the young plants which Mr. Meehan exhibited were taken from dead branches, as well as from living ones, showing the plant's true epiphytal character.

On the Age and Origin of certain Quartz Veins.—Prof. Persifor Frazer, Jr., exhibited a fragment of hornblendic dolerite which was found in York County, intersected by a vein of quartz. The alteration of the former along the planes of contact was indicated by bands of half an inch or more of darker color than the rest of the specimen. Within the vein of quartz are observed many fragments—some of them angular, of nearly the same appearance as the altered portions of dolerite. This occurrence is interesting in view of the light which it throws on the origin of some quartz veins. Had the quartz been thrust up from below in a molten condition (as some geologists have believed possible), its combination with the basic constituents of the neighboring dolerite would have followed as a matter of course. The small fragments would have dissolved in it, and there would have been no sharp line of demarcation between the two rocks.

Even had the gelatinous silica (orthosilicic acid) been maintained at a high temperature during its transition into quartz, it seems almost certain that it would have exerted a considerable chemical action upon the trap, producing compounds richer in silica, while the smaller fragments imbedded in it would have left traces of their former position in colored spots throughout the vein. The infiltration was probably slow, and the solution at a moderate temperature, but chemical action progressed slowly through the contact walls, resulting in their partial alteration.

In connection with this subject he called attention to a paper by Lowthian Bell on the "Whin-Stones," or traps of the north of England (Proc. Royal Soc.), replete with analyses, and in which the author advances hypotheses as to the depths to which alterations of sedimentary strata by intrusive rocks takes place, and as to the volatility of the generally supposed unvolatile substances, which are remarkable, and, from the high authority of Mr. Bell in iron metallurgy, worthy of attention.

Mineralogical Notes.—Dr. Geo. A. Koenig said, that, having been engaged upon the investigation of the minerals occurring at Magnet Cove, Arkansas, for some time past, he desired to give a preliminary notice of some of his results, reserving the details for a memoir, which he hoped to place before the Academy at a future date. Some of his observations were communicated to the Na-